AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-20 (Canceled)

21. (New) A synergistic composition comprising: (i) a THP salt and (ii) a biopenetrant, wherein the biopenetrant comprises a polymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid or a copolymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid with a sulphonic acid, said polymer or copolymer being terminated by a mono- or di-phosphonated unsaturated carboxylic acid group or having such monomers incorporated into the polymer backbone.

22. (New) A composition according to Claim 21, wherein the THP salt is tetrakis(hydroxymethyl) phosphonium sulphate.

23. (New) A composition according to Claim 21, wherein the THP salt is tetrakis (hydroxymethyl) phosphonium phosphite, bromide, fluoride, chloride, phosphate, carbonate, acetate, formats, citrate, borate or silicate.

24. (New) A composition according to Claim 21, wherein the biopenetrant comprises a polymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid or a copolymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid with a sulphonic acid, said polymer or copolymer being either terminated by vinylphosphonic acid (VPA) or vinylidene-1, 1-diphosphonic acid (VDPA) or having such monomers incorporated into the polymer backbone.

25. (New) A composition according to Claim 21, wherein the polymer

or copolymer of the biopenetrant is a polyacrylate or an acrylate/sulphonate copolymer.

26. (New) A composition according to Claim 25, wherein the biopenetrant is a VPA end-capped polymer or a VDPA end-capped polymer or a polyacrylate incorporating VPA and/or VDPA monomers.

27. (New) A composition according to Claim 25, wherein the biopenetrant is a VDPA end-capped copolymer or a VPA end-capped copolymer (both as hereinbefore defined) or an acrylate/sulphonate copolymer incorporating VPA and/or VDPA monomers.

28. (New) A composition according to Claim 26, wherein the proportion of VPA or VDPA polymer or copolymer is in the range of from 1 to 50% by weight, based upon active solids and a 1 to 74% THP salt formulation.

29. (New) A composition according to Claim 28, wherein the proportion is in the range of from 1 to 25% by weight.

30. (New) A composition according to Claim 9, wherein the proportion is in the range of from 1 to 5% by weight.

31. (New) A method of treating a water system contaminated, or liable to contamination, with microbes such as bacteria, fungi or algae, comprising the steps of:

a) adding to said system separately or together, a biocidally active amount of a THP salt and a biopenetrant, wherein the biopenetrant comprises a polymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid or a copolymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid with a sulphonic acid, said polymer or copolymer being terminated by a mono- or di-

phosphonated unsaturated carboxylic acid group or being a random copolymer containing a mono or di-phosphonated unsaturated carboxylic acid, thereby killing at least some of said microbes.

32. (New)A method of treating a water system containing or in contact with an metal sulphide scale, comprising the step of:

a) adding to said system separately or together, a THP salt and a biopenetrant, wherein the biopenetrant comprises a polymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid or a copolymer of an unsaturated carboxylic acid with a sulphonic acid, said polymer or copolymer being terminated by a mono- or di-phosphonated unsaturated carboxylic acid group or being a random copolymer containing a mono or di- phosphonated unsaturated carboxylic acid, and

b) thereby dissolving at least part of said scale.

33. (New) The method of Claim 32 wherein the scale is iron sulphide scale.